In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

*In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* was written by Bette Bao Lord. The book is about a girl named Shirley moved from China, to America. She has a tough time living the lifestyle of the American, but then her life started to get better. She started making friends, she played baseball, and she followed one of the greatest baseball players, Jackie Robinson. So soon America really was her home. I think that the three most important months that shaped her identity were, May, February, and November because they show what Shirley believes in, and how she lives her life. I believe that America showed Shirley her true self, and made her what she is now.

In February Shirley just got to America, so she’s ready to start her new life there. When Shirley got off the train in her new home, New York, she quickly started to look for father, and she soon found him. He took her mother and her to their new home. On the way home in the taxi, Shirley was amazed at all of the American culture in the buildings she saw, and the people she saw. That was the start for her for slowly turning into an American. She might have not been American from where she was born, but the way she acted, and the things she did made her part American. That was when America became part of her identity.

In May Shirley is slowly waiting for something good to happen, and she’s waiting for someone to reach out to her, to be her friend. One day while Shirley was walking across the playground, and not watching where she was going, she walked right through a baseball game. The pitcher Mabel was very mad so she punched Shirley, but a couple of days later Mabel felt bad, so she invited Shirley to play baseball. That was the first time Shirley ever played baseball. After that game Shirley knew that baseball was something that she really wanted to do. She knew that baseball was a part of her now. That was when baseball became part of Shirley’s identity.

In November Shirley has almost spent a year with her new life in America. Though she doesn’t forget her family in China. As November approached the Mid-Autumn Festival approached too. Though Shirley’s family in America almost forgot, and I think that’s because there aren’t people around them who are celebrating it. Shirley was very upset because she almost forgot a celebration that she has been celebrating for eight years. Also she celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival, but she wasn’t with her family for the first time during the Festival. I think that, that showed that Shirley was really close with family back in China. I also think that, that shows that just because she moved to America, and acts like an American she is still Chinese, and she remembers that. Just because she moved to America doesn’t mean she’s not Chinese. She knows that no matter what, part of her identity will be Chinese.

I think that Shirley’s identity has changed a lot since the beginning of the book. I think that the subject in May relates to the time Shirley met her idol Jackie Robinson in December. I think that November sort of relates to January during the Chinese New Year. In the beginning of her life in America I think that she felt alone, and she wished that she could go back to China with her whole family, and go back to her old life, and have a happy life. Though now I think that she wants to stay. I think that Shirley now is a lover of baseball, and she’s American, and Chinese. Identity is something that can change, and it’s important. It’s and important part of Shirley. I think that America has really changed her. I think that America opened up Shirley and showed her true self, and made her what she is now.